THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No child labour is working in Gauge Conversion work of Gorakhpur-Nautanwa section.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Doubling of railway lines in Kerala

1613. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling of railway lines at various sections in Kerala is under progress;

(b) if so, the details including total length of railway lines, length of single line and length of double line facilities available in Kerala, as on today, category-wise;

(c) the details of doubling of lines started in various sections of railway lines in Kerala and expected date of completion, as on today, category-wise;

(d) whether doubling of lines from Mangalore to Kanyakumari would be taken up with utmost urgency;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 31.3.2008, total length of railway lines in Kerala was 1050 Km. Out of this, double broad gauge line was 576 Km., single broad gauge line was 357 Km and single meter gauge line was 117 Km. Further, patch doublings of Ernakulam-Mulanturutti (17.37 km) & Mavelikara-Kayankulam (7.89 km) sections have been completed after 31.3.2008 and are awaiting commissioning. On meter gauge route, 45 Km from Quilon to Punalur has been blocked for conversion.

(c) Details of ongoing doubling projects felling fully/partly in the State of Kerala alongwith status and their target date for completion, wherever fixed, are given as under:-

S.No.	Name of Project	Length (In Km)	Status & Target date for completion wherever fixed
1	2	3	4
1.	Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara	24.00	State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways.
2.	Kuruppantara-Chingavanam	26.54	Final location survey completed. Requisition for 30 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.
3.	Chengannur-Chingavanam	26.5	Requisition for 18.88 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.

1	2	3	4
4.	Mavelikara-Chengannur	12.3	Work is slow due to frequent stoppages of earthmoving vehicles by local people and State Authorities. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
5.	Cheppad-Kayankulam	7.76	Work was slow due to delay in handing over of land and frequent interruptions by locals & failure of contracts. Contracts for all works have since been finalised. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
6.	Cheppad-Haripad	5.28	Work is slow due to frequent interruptions by locals & State Authorities and failure of contracts. New contracts have been processed. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
7.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad	18.13	Requisition for 16 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.

(d) to (f) On Mangalore-Kanyakumari route, doubling of Mangalore-Ernakulam is almost over except 3 Km stretch on Netravathi Bridge which is targeted for completion during 2009-10. The doubling of Ernakulam-Kayankulam via Kottayam is also being progressed on priority. Double line already exists from Kayankulam to Trivandrum. Survey for doubling of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari section has been taken up.

Encroachment of railway land in Assam

1614. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of land allotted to Railway in the State of Assam;

(b) how much area of railway land is illegally occupied/encroached in Assam;

(c) the area of land allotted for the Railway in Barpeta Road and Sarbhog in Assam and the area of land under illegal occupation in these areas; and

(d) the details of steps taken, so far, for release of said land from illegal occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) State-wise details regarding encroachments of railway land is not maintained.

The State of Assam is served by Northeast Frontier Railway. The area of land owned by Northeast Frontier Railway in all the States including Assam is approximately 43224 Hectare, out of which 170 Hectare is under encroachments.